

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 131164
ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PI

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE OBSTACLES TO IMPORT OF US
GENERAL AVIATION AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) MANILA 6551; (B) 76 STATE 138441

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S EXCELLENT REPORT
AND COMMENT IN REF A. BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND COMMERCE
CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE PHILIPPINE AEROSPACE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S (PADC) TACTICS.

2. GENERAL AVIATION MANUFACTURER'S ASSOCIATION (GAMA),
WHICH INCLUDES CESSNA AND BEECH AMONG ITS MEMBERS, HAS
SINGLED OUT SINCE ITS PUBLICATION. THE PHILIPPINE
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PAGE 02 STATE 131164

DEC. '75 LETTER OF INSTRUCTION (LOI) NO. 343 AS AN
OBJECTIONABLE CONSTRAINT TO TRADE. ALTHOUGH REF A
REPORTS PADC APPEARS TO BE RELAXING ITS ALTITUDE TOWARD
THE IMPORT OF US-MADE MULTI-ENGINE AIRCRAFT, RECENT
STATISTICS PROVIDED BY GAMA INDICATE ONLY FOUR TWIN-
ENGINE AIRCRAFT WERE APPROVED FOR IMPORT IN THE LAST 30
MONTHS.

3. SINCE GAMA BELIEVES POTENTIAL AIRCRAFT SALES BY THEIR MEMBER FIRMS IN THE PHILIPPINES IS MANY TIMES

WHAT HAS BEEN SOLD THERE IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THEY ARE UNDERSTANDABLY PRESSING FOR, IF NOT THE OUTRIGHT WITHDRAWAL OF THE LOI, AT LEAST FOR A LESS RIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT OF IT. BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT SETTLES ON A COURSE OF ACTION TO ASSIST GAMA, WE WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING:

(A) TRADE PRESS PUBLICATIONS INDICATE THAT BRITTEN-NORMAN LTD. HAS FOLDED AND THAT THE MANUFACTURING RIGHTS ARE UP FOR GRABS. SHORT BROTHERS (UK) AND FAIRLEY, S.A. (THE PARENT COMPANY LOCATED IN BELGIUM) ARE LEADING CONTENDERS. WHAT EFFECT HAVE THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAD ON PADC?

(B) JANES' "ALL THE WORLD'S AIRCRAFT 1977-78" REPORTS THAT PADC CONTRACTURALLY AGREED TO "PRODUCE" 100 BRITTEN-NORMAN (BN) ISLANDERS, 25 OF WHICH WOULD BE REPURCHASED BY BRITTEN-NORMAN LTD. FOR SALE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IN LIGHT OF THE RECEIVESHIP OF BRITTEN-NORMAN LTD., IS THIS REPORT STILL ACCURATE? IN ANY CASE, HOW MANY PADC-ASSEMBLED BN ISLANDERS REMAIN UNSOLD, WILL ANYMORE BEYOND THE ORIGINAL 100 BE ASSEMBLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 131164

AND WHERE ELSE BESIDES THE PI DOES PADC BELIEVE THEY CAN SELL THEM?

(C) PRESUMING THAT PADC PRESIDENT ROBERTO LIM WILL REMAIN HEAD OF PADC, EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF "PUNITIVE ACTION" DOES THE EMBASSY BELIEVE MIGHT BE USEFUL IN OUR EFFORT TO ACHIEVE EITHER A "FAIR AND LIBERAL" APPLICATION OR THE REMOVAL OF THE LOI?

(D) THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO CURIOUS TO KNOW OF THE ACCURACY OF REPORTS THAT PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVES OF USAIRCRAFTMANUFACTURERS ARE PREPARED TO HELP SELL THE REMAINING BN ISLANDERS(PRESUMABLY WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT BY GETTING RID OF THEM THEY WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO CONTEND WITH LOI 343). CHRISTOPHER

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